

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 20504 01 OF 03 281134Z

ACTION EB-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-08 SS-14 INR-05 INRE-00 SSO-00
/032 W

-----064384 281234Z /50

O R 281035Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3965

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 03 PARIS 20504

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

LIMDIS/NOFORN

USOECDD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ESTC, COCOM

SUBJECT: REASSIGNMENT OF CURRENT COCOM CHAIRMAN

REF: (A) STATE 158080, (B) ROME 1449, (C) PARIS 18713

1. SUMMARY: USDEL INFORMED COCOM CHAIRMAN INDELICATO THAT USG WOULD PREFER THAT HIS TRANSFER BE POSTPONED UNTIL AFTER LIST REVIEW. FRENCH, GERMANS AND BRITISH ARE LIKELY TO ADOPT SAME POSITION. IN ORDER THAT ITALIAN GOVERNMENT FULLY UNDERSTANDS U.S. STAND RE TIMING OF CHANGE IN CHAIRMANSHIP, USDEL SUGGESTS DEPARTMENT ALSO INFORM ITALIAN GOVERNMENT THROUGH ANOTHER CHANNEL. END SUMMARY.

2. PURSUANT TO REFTTEL A, USDEL TOLD COCOM CHAIRMAN INDELICATO JUNE 23 THAT U.S. WOULD BE GENERALLY
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OPPOSED TO CHANGING COCOM LEADERSHIP AT THIS TIME AND THAT WE WOULD PREFER, IF POSSIBLE, THAT INDELICATO REMAIN AT LEAST UNTIL COMPLETION OF THE UP-COMING LIST REVIEW. USDEL ALSO INFORMED INDELICATO THAT U.S. WAS OPEN-MINDED WITH RESPECT TO PRINCIPLE THAT POST BE EVENTUALLY FILLED BY ITALIAN CANDIDATE BUT THAT U.S. IS COGNIZANT OF AND GRATEFUL FOR ITALY'S

EVEN-HANDED PERFORMANCE IN THE COCOM CHAIRMANSHIP.
USDEL NOTED THAT U.S. AGREED THAT DIVISIVE DISPUTE
OVER COCOM CHAIRMANSHIP SHOULD BE AVOIDED.

3. WHILE EVIDENTLY PLEASED THAT U.S. SATISFIED WITH
HIS PERFORMANCE AS COCOM CHAIRMAN, INDELICATO EX-
PLAINED THAT U.S. ATTITUDE PLACED HIM IN AWKWARD
POSITION. HE SAID THAT HIS AUTHORITIES HAD INITIALLY
INSTRUCTED HIM TO FORMALLY ANNOUNCE HIS IMMINENT
TRANSFER TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONSULTATIVE
GROUP. AT HIS OWN SUGGESTION, HOWEVER, HIS AUTHOR-
ITIES HAD DECIDED THAT IT WOULD BE MORE PRUDENT TO
DETERMINE FIRST WHETHER PRINCIPLE THAT AN ITALIAN
CHAIR COMMITTEE WOULD REMAIN INTACT. HE WAS SOMEWHAT
"LET DOWN" HE SAID, THAT U.S. POSITION WAS ONE OF
OPEN-MINDED ON THIS ISSUE AND RECALLED THAT COMMITTEE
HAD BEEN CHAIRED BY ITALIAN DIPLOMAT SINCE ITS
INCEPTION. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE FACT THAT CHAIRMAN'S
SALARY AND ALLOWANCES WERE CONSIDERED AS ITALY'S
CONTRIBUTION TO COCOM SERVED TO PREVENT ANY PARLIAMEN-
TARY DEBATE OVER ITALIAN CONTRIBUTION OR PARTICIPATION
IN COCOM ITSELF. HE HOPED THAT FACT THAT U.S. AGREED
THAT DIVISIVE DISPUTE OVER COCOM CHAIRMANSHIP SHOULD
BE AVOIDED AND THAT U.S. WAS GRATEFUL FOR ITALY'S
EVEN-HANDED PERFORMANCE IN COCOM CHAIRMANSHIP INDICATED
THAT U.S. WOULD IN FACT BE SYMPATHETIC TO ITALIAN
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CANDIDACY AND TO MAINTENANCE OF THE GENERAL PRINCIPLE
THAT AN ITALIAN SHOULD CHAIR THE COMMITTEE. HE ASKED
THAT U.S. REVIEW ITS "OPEN-MINDED" POSITION ON THIS
ISSUE WITH A VIEW TOWARDS ADOPTING A POSITION THAT
WOULD MORE CLEARLY DISCOURAGE THE PRESENTATION OF
OTHER CANDIDATES. USDEL RESPONDED THAT HE COULD NOT
SAY WHETHER U.S. AUTHORITIES WOULD BE PREPARED TO GO
BEYOND ITS OPEN-MINDED POSITION.

4. AS TO THE TIMING OF THE MOVE, INDELICATO RECALLED
THAT HIS PREDECESSOR, TEDASHI, HAD ARRIVED AT COCOM
DURING A LIST REVIEW WITHOUT ANY NEGATIVE CONSE-
QUENCES

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ACTION EB-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-08 SS-14 INR-05 INRE-00 SSO-00
/032 W

-----064486 281235Z /50

O R 281035Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3966
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 03 PARIS 20504

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FOR THE COMMITTEE'S OVERALL WORK. HE EXPLAINED THAT HE HIMSELF HAD SUGGESTED TO HIS AUTHORITIES THAT REITANO BE CONSIDERED AS POSSIBLE CANDIDATE TO BE HIS SUCCESSOR. HE SAID THAT REITANO WAS VERY FAMILIAR WITH COCOM AFFAIRS, HAD PARTICIPATED IN COCOM CONFERENCES, AND HAD ALL THE OTHER NECESSARY QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE POSITION. AS TO A POSSIBLE OVERLAP, HE EXPLAINED THAT ITALIAN LAW PROHIBITED TWO PERSONS BEING ASSIGNED TO THE SAME OVERSEAS POSITION AND THAT THE MAXIMUM OVERLAP ALLOWABLE WAS TEN DAYS.

5. INDELICATO INFORMED USDEL THAT HE HAS NOW APPROACHED THE GERMAN, FRENCH AND UK DELS TO DETERMINE THEIR SUPPORT FOR ITALIAN CANDIDACY. HE WILL ALSO BE CONTACTING DUTCH, CANADIAN, DANISH AND NORWEGIAN DELS, AND FINALLY BELGIAN DEL TO ASCERTAIN THEIR SUPPORT DURING THIS COMING WEEK. HE NOW PLANS TO SEND LETTERS TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP DURING WEEK OF JULY 3 TO ANNOUNCE HIS AUTHORITIES' DESIRE TO TRANSFER HIM. A CURRICULUM
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VITAE OF REITANO AS HIS POSSIBLE SUCCESSOR WILL PROBABLY THEN BE DISTRIBUTED BY THE ITALIAN DELEGATION. INDELICATO CALLED IN USDEL JUNE 26 TO PROVIDE HIM WITH SOME ADVANCE BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON REITANO (WHICH CORRESPONDS WITH THAT IN REF B). HE USED OCCASION TO PRESS AGAIN FOR MORE POSITIVE U.S. POSITION IN

FAVOR OF ITALIAN CHAIRMAN.

6. USDEL CALLED ON GERMAN, UK AND FRENCH DELS JUNE 26 TO EXPRESS U.S. VIEWPOINT AND ASCERTAIN THEIR AUTHORITIES ATTITUDE TO IMPENDING TRANSFER. GERMAN DEL INDICATED SURPRISE THAT TRANSFER WAS PLANNED FOR JUST PRIOR TO LIST REVIEW. HE HAD ASSUMED, HE SAID, THAT INDELICATO HAD RAISED HIS POSSIBLE TRANSFER ONLY IN GENERAL TERMS AND THAT NO DATE HAD YET BEEN SET. GERMAN DEL BELIEVED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD WISH TO DISCOURAGE ANY TRANSFER OF INDELICATO UNTIL AFTER COMPLETION OF LIST REVIEW. HE BELIEVED, HOWEVER, THAT IN ANY CASE HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD SUPPORT AN ITALIAN CANDIDATE. HE HAS NOT YET RECEIVED FIRM INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS ISSUE FROM HIS AUTHORITIES.

7. FRENCH DEL ALSO INDICATED THAT INDELICATO HAD RAISED ISSUE OF HIS TRANSFER ONLY IN VERY VAGUE TERMS AND HAD NOT STATED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES HAD ALREADY DECIDED TO TRANSFER HIM. FRENCH DEL SAID THAT HE HAD TOLD INDELICATO THAT IT HAD ALWAYS BEEN FRENCH GOVERNMENT POSITION TO SUPPORT PRINCIPLE OF MAINTAINING AN ITALIAN AS COCOM CHAIRMAN BUT THAT DEFINITE POSITION COULD BE TAKEN ONLY WHEN ACTUAL CHANGE IN CHAIRMAN WAS BEING PROPOSED. FRENCH DEL TOLD USDEL THAT HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY NOT WISH TO SEE A CHANGE IN THE CHAIRMANSHIP PRIOR TO THE LIST REVIEW. USDEL

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SUGGESTED THAT, IF THIS WAS THE POSITION OF THE FRENCH AUTHORITIES, IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR FRENCH DEL TO INFORM INDELICATO OF THIS FACT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WITHOUT MENTIONING HE HAD DISCUSSED MATTER WITH THE USDEL. FRENCH DEL RESPONDED THAT, WITH HIS AUTHORITIES' AGREEMENT, HE WOULD TELL INDELICATO THAT IF ITALIAN GOVERNMENT WAS CONSIDERING CHAIRMANSHIP CHANGE IN NEAR FUTURE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WOULD PREFER THAT IT WAIT UNTIL AFTER COMPLETION OF THE LIST REVIEW.

8. UK DEL INFORMED USDEL THAT HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD ALSO PROBABLY WISH TO DISCOURAGE ITALIANS FROM TRANSFERRING INDELICATO PRIOR TO COMPLETION OF LIST REVIEW. HE HAD HIMSELF RECOMMENDED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES FORMALLY ADOPT THIS POSITION.

9. USDEL AGREES WITH DEPARTMENT THAT IT WOULD BE HIGHLY PREFERABLE IF CHANGE IN COCOM CHAIRMANSHIP COULD BE POSTPONED UNTIL AFTER LIST REVIEW. WHILE

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S E C R E T SECTION 03 OF 03 PARIS 20504

STADIS/////////////////////////////////
LIMDIS

INDELICATO STATED THAT HE WOULD INFORM FOREIGN MINISTRY
OF U.S. POSITION IN THIS REGARD WE ARE NOT SURE HE IS IN
POSITION TO DO SO FRANKLY AND FORCEFULLY. INDELICATO
APPEARS TO BE IN SOMEWHAT AWKWARD SITUATION REGARDING
THE QUESTION OF HIS TRANSFER. DURING LAST YEAR HE HAS
BEEN OFFERED A NUMBER OF POSITIONS, INCLUDING AN AMBAS-
SADORSHIP, BUT HE HAS HELD OUT FOR A WESTERN EUROPEAN
ASSIGNMENT. HE HAS A NUMBER OF PERSONAL FAMILY REASONS
FOR WANTING TO REMAIN IN PARIS, BUT REALIZES THAT FOR
CAREER REASONS HE SHOULD PROBABLY MOVE ON. AGAINST THIS
BACKGROUND IT IS DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO ARGUE WITH HIS
AUTHORITIES THAT NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO TRANSFER HIM.
HE IMPLIED TO USDEL THAT, FOR POLITICAL REASONS, IT
WOULD NOT BE IN HIS INTEREST FOR HIM TO PLACE TOO MUCH
STRESS ON THE FACT THAT THE U.S. WOULD LIKE TO SEE HIM
REMAIN AS CHAIRMAN. IN ORDER TO ASSURE THAT FOREIGN
MINISTRY FULLY UNDERSTANDS U.S. POSITION, USDEL
SUGGESTS THAT DEPARTMENT CONSIDER
USING ANOTHER CHANNEL TO EXPRESS USG INTEREST IN
SEEING CHANGE IN COCOM CHAIRMANSHIP DELAYED UNTIL
AFTER COMPLETION OF LIST REVIEW. BECAUSE OF ITALIAN
INTENTION TO NOMINATE REITANO WHO HEADS UP DIVISION
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HANDLING COCOM MATTERS, WE REALIZE THAT IT MIGHT
BE AWKWARD FOR AMEMBASSY ROME TO MAKE AN APPROACH TO
FOREIGN MINISTRY. FOR THIS REASON, IT MIGHT BE MORE
APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH ITALIAN EMBASSY
IN WASHINGTON. IN ANY CASE, TO HAVE MAXIMUM IMPACT
ANY APPROACH TO ITALIAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE MADE
THIS WEEK BEFORE INDELICATO FORMALLY INFORMS COCOM
MEMBERS. (USDEL HAS ASCERTAINED FROM INDELICATO THAT
THERE IS NO LEGAL REQUIREMENT FOR HIM TO RETURN TO
ROME AT THIS TIME).
SALZMAN

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Message Attributes

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